

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 NEAE-00 AGRE-00 COME-00
EB-08 TRSE-00 IO-13 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
INRE-00 PA-01 USIE-00 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01
CEA-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /096 W
-----076535 011732Z /70

O 011715Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6135
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EAID, EG, JA
SUBJECT: JAPANESE FOOD AID TO EGYPT

1. ON 3/01/78, AGATTACHE CAIRO (WEBB) WAS VISITED BY OFFICERS FROM COMMERCIAL SECTION OF JAPANESE EMBASSY CAIRO (KUNYASU TAKEDA, FIRST SECRETARY, AND TOSHINAO URABE, SECOND SECRETARY). THEY STATED PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON EGYPTIAN WHEAT/WHEAT FLOUR SITUATION SINCE GOJ IS CONSIDERING FOOD AID ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT. URABE HAD PREVIOUSLY CALLED AND DISCUSSED RELEVANT STATISTICS WITH WEBB.

2. TAKEDA/URABE EXPLAINED THAT JAPANESE FOOD AID WAS ALL ON GRANT BASIS WITH CURRENT ANNUAL WORLD BUDGET OF APPROXIMATELY DOLLARS 100 MILLION. WHEREAS IN PAST JAPANESE FOOD AID HAS ALL BEEN IN NORM OF RICE, GOJ IS
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NOW CONSIDERING PURCHASE OF WHEAT FROM U.S. TO HELP IN CLOSING TRADE GAP BETWEEN U.S.-JAPAN, WITH WHEAT BEING USED IN JAPANESE FOOD AID PROGRAM. THEY DISCLAIMED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF QUANTITY LIKELY TO BE PROGRAMMED FOR EGYPT EXCEPT TO POINT OUT THAT TOTAL BUDGET NECESSITATES SMALL AMOUNTS FOR ANY SINGLE COUNTRY.

3. WEBB EXPLAINED THAT MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF GOE ARE AT LEAST 6.0 MILLION METRIC TONS (MMT) OF WHEAT AND WHEAT FLOUR (GRAIN EQUIVALENT BASIS), CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 2.0 MMT DOMESTIC PRODUCTION AND 4.0-4.1 MMT IMPORTS. FOLLOWING ESTIMATES OF EGYPTIAN IMPORTS IN U.S. FY-1978 WERE DISCUSSED:

SOURCE	QUANTITY IN MMT
U.S. FOOD AID (TITLE I OF PL-480)	1.5
FOOD AID FROM OTHER COUNTRIES (ESTIMATE)	.1
NOT INCLUDING ANY NEW FOOD AID FROM JAPAN)	
CY 1978 COMMERCIAL PURCHASE FROM AUSTRALIA	1.0
OTHER COMMERCIAL PURCHASES TO DATE	.6
(OBTAINED RECENTLY FROM MINISTRY OF SUPPLY)	
BALANCE OF USUAL MARKETING REQUIREMENT YET TO BE PURCHASED	.4
TOTAL	3.6

4. RECOGNIZING SLIPPAGE BETWEEN U.S. FISCAL YEAR AND CALENDAR YEAR FIGURES, WEBB POINTED OUT THAT ABOVE ESTIMATES INDICATE EGYPT NEEDS AT LEAST .4-.5 MMT OF WHEAT/WHEAT FLOUR IN ADDITIONAL FOOD AID. TAKEDA/URABE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR INFO FURNISHED ABOVE.

5. ONLY OTHER SIGNIFICANT POINT DISCUSSED CONCERNED EGYPT'S POSITION AS IMPORTER AND EXPORTER OF RICE, SINCE JAPAN HAS PURCHASED RICE FROM EGYPT IN PART FOR USE IN ITS FOOD AID PROGRAM TO CERTAIN SMALL AFRICAN COUNTRIES. WEBB EXPRESSED VIEW THAT TREND INDICATES EGYPT MAY BECOME NET IMPORTER OF RICE WITHIN RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME SINCE PRODUCTION IS NOT INCREASING IN LINE WITH POPULATION, AND DEMAND FOR RICE CONTINUES STRONG. EILTS

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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